(d) the Government's strategy in controlling these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Among the most dreaded diseases in the country are : TB; Malaria; Cancer; AIDS; Leprosy; Acute Respiratory Illnesses (ARI); Heart Attacks; Strokes; and diarhoeal diseases.

The prevalance of Malaria in India during 1995 has been reported as 2.96 million cases mainly covering 100 high risk and endemic districts besides a large part of the North Eastern region. In respect of Tuberculosis around 1.4 million new TB cases are detected each year and 0.5 million persons die each year. The disease is uniformally prevalent all over the country. In respect of Leprosy about 1.6 million patients are estimated to be present in India mainly in the endemic areas of the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Cancer cases in the country are estimated at 2 million & Cardio-vascular diseases are also widely prevalant. There is, however, no specific area of incidence for thses diseases. Acute respiratory illnesses account for the highest rates of mortality in India.

(c) and (d) Several important National Programmes are under implementation which include those for the prevention and control of AIDS, Leprosy, TB, Malaria, Cancer and Iodine deficiency disorders. The Government have also launched several pilot projects including those on control of Cardio-vascular diseases, control, of Micro-nutrient deficiencies, diabetes control medical rehabilitation etc. The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme has inter alia covered diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections among children.

Health being a State subject, the implementation of these programmes is the primary responsibility of the State Govts. The Central Govt. provides the technical guidance, material support, IEC materials etc. and also carries out monitoring and coordination of these programmes. The implementation is through a large network of sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. Secondary and tertiary level care is provided through hospital. External aid has been availed of through the World Bank to augment resources for the infrastructure and improve the outreach of the Programme.

Supply of clean drinking water and sanitation including personal hygiene are also given emphasis by the Government for controlling seasonal diseases such as gastroenteritis.

Disease surveillance is also high on the agenda of the Government. A National Apical Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Health) has also been set up to formulate a Nation-wide disease surveillance network.

Aircrafts taken on wet lease by Air India

*151. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The total number of aircrafts category-wise with Air India;

(b) the number of aircrafts that have been taken on wet lease by Air India and from whom they are taken;

(c) the conditions of the wet lease; and

(d) the programme of Air India to procure more aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The details of aircraft in the fleet of Air India are as under:-

Boeing B747-200	-	9
Boeing B747-300	-	2
Boeing B747-400	-	6
Airbus A310-300	-	8
Airbus A300-B4	-	3
TOTAL:		28

(b) At present two A310-300 aircraft wet-leased from M/s. Airclub International of Canada and one IL-62M aircraft wetleased from M/s. Aeroflot of Russia are being operated by Air India for passenger services.

(c) Under the wet-leased agreement, M/s. Airclub International is required to provide aircraft, crew including cabin crew, maintenance and insurance. Air India has to bear the cost of all other items including fuel.

In case of IL-62 M, Aeroflot is required to provide aircraft, flight crew and minimum cabin crew complement, fuel, handling and landing charges etc. Air India is required to bear the cost of aircraft insurance, passenger and baggage legal liability, booking agency commission etc.

(d) Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period. Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November, 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Proposals for acquisition of one more B747-400 aircraft and three A310-300 aircraft are under consideration. In addition, Air India will also purchase a number of MCLR aircraft.

Providing Uplinking Facilities to earn more Foreign Exchange

*152. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether giving uplinking facilities on Indian soil to satellite television channels will help earn more foreign exchange and also increase employment potential;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an independent broadcasting authority for this purpose;

(c) the fee proposed to be levied on private channels for uplinking from Indian soil; and

(d) measures taken to popularise the Doordarshan International Channels?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The issue of permitting uplinking facilities from Indian soil is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This and other related issues including setting up of autonomous broadcasting authority would be taken care of by the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) Various measures such as increasing the telecast time, showing programmes/films including in regional languages for benefit of NRI's live telecasting of events of national importance, publicising channel programmes and schedules etc. have been taken to increase the popularity of Doordarshan international. Further, our missions abroad have been asked to give wide publicity to the telecast schedules and also give no-objection certificates to cable operators willing to downlink DD international channel for further distribution.

Twisting of Rules by Doordarshan for Rating Sponsored Programmes to favour Private Producers

*153. SHRI O.S. MANIAN:
SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has twisted rules for rating its sponsored programmes to favour certain private producers;

(b) if so, what is the loss incurred by Government on this account; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the guilty officials of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Handing over the task of Organising International Film Festivals to the Film Industry

*154. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Film Festival of India was held at Tiruvananthapuram in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the profit earned therefrom;

(c) the shortcomings noticed during the festival including the selection of films;